

BPLA Membership Meeting
Saturday, September 3, 2022 – 9:15 AM
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order; Pledge of Allegiance – John

The meeting, held in person at the Finlayson Community Center, was called to order at 9:17am. There was also an option to join the meeting via Zoom. 55 members present (including several new members) and 4 members present via Zoom.

2. Introduce board – John

John introduced the board: John Mueller – co-Chair | Membership; Maria Gobely – Treasurer | Buffer zones; Jim Corbo – Secretary; Dan Frey – co-Chair | Newsletter | July 4th parade; Don Roepke – Projects | Fisheries; Dwight Benoy – Water quality | Roadside Clean-up; Roger Olson – Business Directory | BPLA logo merchandise. All board members were present at the meeting. At large committee members include: Lisa Drake and Ron Redding. First time attendees were identified and welcomed.

3. Review agenda – John

The agenda was presented and briefly reviewed. Hand-outs were noted and the raffle ticket process was discussed. Each participant was issued one raffle ticket.

4. Approval of Spring 2022 meeting minutes – Jim

Spring 2022 meeting minutes were presented. Motion to approve the spring meeting minutes passed.

5. Treasurer's report – Maria

The budget and balance sheet were presented. Community giving over the past year was great. Specifically, we collected \$4,140 for Family Pathways, our local food shelf. Funds given toward our annual fireworks display was also generous. Thank you. We are on budget for 2022. Maria shared the board's discontent with current rates for CDs at Northview Bank, which is where some of our cash currently sits. The plan is to research CDs available at Edward Jones, which currently advertise higher rates. We still want to keep some of our cash in the form of CDs to generate a little extra return. Motion to approve the treasurer's report passed.

6. Election of Board Members – John

A. Big Pine Lake

John Mueller has completed year 1 of his 3rd term. Maria Gobely has completed year 2 of her 2nd term and is interested in pursuing a 3rd term. Jim Corbo has completed year 2 of his 1st term and is interested in pursuing a 2nd term. Maria Gobely and Jim Corbo were endorsed to continue for another term. Sue Bonine expressed interest in joining the board and filling the open position for Big Pine Lake. She was approved to be a future board member. Welcome Sue!

B. Pine Lake

Dan Frey has completed year 1 of his 2nd term. Don Roepke has completed year 2 of his 1st term and is interested in pursuing a 2nd term. Dwight Benoy has completed year 2 of his 1st term and is interested in pursuing a 2nd term. Roger Olson has completed year 1 of his 1st term. Dan Frey, Don Roepke, and Dwight Benoy were endorsed to continue for another term.

7. Committee reports

A. Membership – John

208 members in 2022 (this includes 12 new members). 196 members in 2020. 218 members in 2021 (includes 18 new members). Membership directories are available at each meeting. A question was asked about the percentage of members that are full time resident versus seasonal. Based on where mailings are sent, John estimated that roughly 40% are considered full time.

B. Logo Wear | Business Directories – Roger

29 businesses are represented in 2022. Business Directories are available at each meeting. New logo wear items include tie die shirts and picnic blankets. We are always open to ideas for other types of logo wear.

C. July 4th Boat Parade | Fireworks | Picnic – Dan

Weather proved to be less than appealing during both the fireworks show (fog) and the boat parade (rain). The participation was still good with 8 boats participating on Big Pine and 7 boats (6 families) participating on Pine. Winners from each parade were announced and pictures can be found on the BPLA website. Special thanks to the Makalas, Karels, Drakes, and Rocky Bullis for their additional help and to everyone who donated to the fireworks fund. Next year, both the parade and BPLA fireworks show will be held on July 1, 2023. The picnic was also a big success this year. 65 people attended. The next picnic is planned for July 15, 2023.

D. Projects – Don

Thanks to all the volunteers who have shown up at the various Project Day events. Don reviewed the various projects completed throughout the year (docks, boat landing and hiking trail clean- up, loon nest platforms, etc.) The clearance indicators on the bridge in the narrows were replaced and the storage garage was also cleaned and organized. The next event will be held on September 17, 2022 at 9:00am. A question was asked regarding the success of the loon platforms. It sounds like two different attempts to nest were made this year on Big Pine Lake. One may have succumbed to a predator. So, while the platforms have not been successful as of yet, BPLA is committed to keeping them in working order to encourage future nesting.

E. Fisheries – Don

The Minnesota DNR stocked Walleye this year: 176 pounds in Big Pine and 125 pounds in Pine. There are approximately 20 fingerlings per pound. Lake surveys were conducted on both lakes in August. These surveys are taken every 8 years and determine the types and quantity of fish present. A preliminary report shows that the Walleye population has increased in both lakes and specifically noted it doubled on Big Pine. The biggest Walleye caught in the survey measured 24 inches. Black Crappie and Northern Pike populations remain fairly steady. The biggest Pike caught in the survey measured 38 inches. Leslie George from the MN Fisheries will visit our Spring 2023 meeting to talk more about the report. A question was raised regarding Perch habitats. The report indicates that the Perch population has also increased.

F. Roadside clean-up — Don

The next roadside clean-up event will coincide with Project Days on September 17, 2022.

G. Kettle River – Upper St. Croix 1 Watershed 1 plan (1W1P) – John

Minnesota has recently approved a 10-year Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, which seeks to improve and protect 80 watersheds throughout the state. Big Pine and Pine Lakes are part of the Kettle and Upper Saint Croix River watersheds — which are included in the WRAPS report. This vision will help guide future discussions for long term planning for our lakes and how BPLA can support those plans. More information is available through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the BPLA website. So far, the team has been working on collecting and prioritizing problems/issues with lakes throughout the watershed. Big Pine and Pine Lakes are considered “impaired.” Future meetings will look at issues with forests, rivers, farms, and storm water

run-off. Once data is collected, the team will develop goals, target resources, and ultimately develop action plans. BPLA continues to be active in this process.

H. **Water Quality Report — Dwight**

For the past seven years, BPLA has been monitoring the quality of the water in our lakes through various tests conducted throughout the year. Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-A, and Nitrogen levels are monitored and water clarity is measured via secci dish readings. Overall, levels are trending lower, but fluctuate throughout the year. Secci dish readings were much lower this year compared to 2021. This is possibly caused by more rain and increased amounts of run-off into the lake. Remember, one year is not a trend. Dwight highlighted the BPLA website and pointed to where the information regarding these tests is posted.

I. **Buffer Zone Projects – Maria**

Weather and DNR permit-related issues proved to be problematic this year and resulted in several projects being pushed into 2023. Three projects were completed this year. Total investment in 2022 was \$30,765, which includes \$13,843 in grants, \$6,690 in in-kind labor, and \$10,230 in owner investments. Maria showed before and after pictures of various projects. Thanks to everyone who has helped. If interested in volunteering or to get on the list for a project, please contact Maria.

8. **Old Business – John**

None.

9. **New Business – John**

The following questions/comments were asked either from in-person participants or from zoom participants.

- A. Concerns were raised about individuals stealing gas tanks off boats/pontoons on Pine Lake. Seems like 3-4 tanks were taken from homes off 111th.
- B. Zebra Mussel update: There are approximately 5-6 zebra mussel collector plates around the lake. These plates are available from the DNR. As of now, we are all clean! Please continue to be vigilant when it comes to trailering boats to and from our lakes. Educate your guests. Follow guidance provided by the DNR.
- C. Aqua Thruster inquiry: No permits currently required for aqua thrusters. You are legal to use them as long as they do not move sediment (sand, etc.) from the lake bottom. Follow state guidelines.
- D. Wake Boats: discussion was had on where BPLA stands with wake boats. Jim spoke more about the subject and summarized what he had written in the previous newsletter. He provided an update on the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District and their current plans to increase the distance from shore to 300 feet (from 200 feet) where all boats will be speed limited to no more than 5 miles per hour. This plan has changed from the original plan to target only wake boats. BPLA will follow laws set forth by the state. Please continue to be vigilant and respectful when operating any type of boat on our lakes. Check out the newsletter for more details.
- E. Dan recognized John for his hard work as Co-Chair. Thanks, John, for all you do.

10. **Adjournment – John**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.